

## Between Module Course Reading

### MODULE 5

#### *Reading 2: Cultural influences on Critical thinking and problem solving*

*(Douglas F Brenner & Sandra Parks)*

Consider the concept of fair-mindedness in critical thinking as explored in Reading 2, and answer the following questions:

*Do the questions in **MELTABRC** raise issues about integrity?*

Yes because it assumes the following:

- That assumptions are made by authors
- Authors have bias
- Credibility needs to be questioned
- Persuasive techniques and language need to be taken into account
- That there are consequences to what is put down on paper if to be believed without questioning
- MELTABRC fits more with **Individualist cultures** – critique of individual, speaking mind freely, demanding clarity, interested in promoting own beliefs etc.
- Lacks understanding of **Collectivist culture** perspective - independence with others, shared voice, listen and infer a speakers intention, creation of harmony etc.
- Still has a use in learning, just a limited focus (culturally specific) and should be used only with the knowledge that there are other cultural perspectives that must be taken into account.

*What is the relationship between critical thinking and integrity?*

- Need to be true to your own thinking – don't accept without understanding
- Critical thinking needs to include moral thinking – in order to become rational and fair minded.
- Make your own valued judgments – be open minded and see from all perspectives
- To think without bias....
- Cultural perspectives regarding honesty, adherence to moral and ethical principles have great influence on critical thinking.